A DISCOURS OF HUSBANDRIE USED IN Brabant and Flanders:

SHEWING
The wonderful improvement of Land there; and serving as a pattern for our practice in this
COMMONWEALTH.

The Third Edition Corrected and Enlarged.

LONDON,
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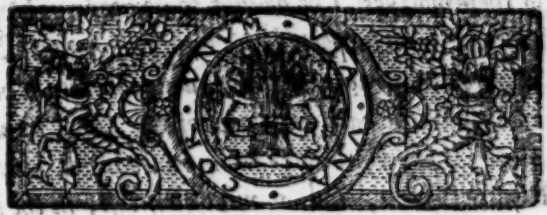

To

The Right Honorable THE *COUNCIL* of *STATE*.

Although it is a dutie incumbent to all Men, *as* Men; *and to all* Profes-sors, *as* Christians, *to love Mankinde, as* Christ *loved us; and to imitate the* God of the spirits of all flesh, who causeth his Sun to shine upon the good and the bad; *and although there is a special delight to do that which is good and commendable, onely for the love of Goodness it self, and the commendableness of Virtue; Yet, when wee meet with special and powerful* encouragements *to set us on, and* provocations *to draw forth our affections to laudable endeavors, wee must needs add som more effectual zeal to the performance of these duties. For mine own part I may saie without vanitie, that the*

first of these motives, The delight to do good, in love to the Publick, hath supported mee hitherto, notwithstanding manifold distractions in the waie wherein I have walked. And as it hath been one of my Aims, to have the honor (if possibly I could attain unto it) of serving the Publick gratis, and at mine own cost, in the best things: So I have made it a part of my Agencie, to provoke others to do the like, by offering unto every one, the things which might bee most advantagious unto thēselvs, by doing service unto others. And how far my affections have carried mee beyond my abilities in this cours, I need not to mention: this hath onely been my comfort, that having served my Generation generously and freely, I never had caus to repent of what I had don, whether it were resented by others, or not. But now of late seeing it hath pleased God, not onely by the settlement of this State in the waie of a Common-wealth, to give to all men a more open door then ever heretofore, to enter upon a concurrence to serv the Publick, that thereby they might both preserv and encreas their own welfare; but that I have found unexspectedly from your Honors som peculiar expression of favor towards my self, upon the account of my publick-heartedness; I must confes, that I am thereby not so much refreshed by reason of that which befalleth to my self, as delighted in the hopeful apprehension of that

which

which befalleth to the Publick, *whiles in this particular I am able to perceiv, that the good hand of God hath put the management of this Cauſ and Work in the hands of Men, whom hee hath endued with a publick ſpirit, which is a clear teſtimonie to mee, that hee will build thereon a ſuperſtructure, which by his grace upon your waies will redound to his glorie, and evince unto the world, that it is not any private Intereſt, but his Glory and the* Publick *Happineſs, which hath acted and doth act, both the Parlament and your ſelvs in all your undertakings. And verily the conſideration of this very thing, that God hath ſet in publick places Men that minde the Publick for it ſelf, and ſeek out thoſe that are ſo enclined, although they make no ſpecial application unto them (which hitherto I have not don) is more worth to mee then the private advantage, which your Honors favor can bring unto mee. For although the ſtraits wherewith the times, and my own forwardneſs to ſerv others have caſt mee, might induce mee to rejoice at the fruit of your Honors bountie towards my ſelf; Yet that is no waies comparable to the ſenſ of joie, which I have at the clear Character, which this hath given mee of the ſpirit by which you are led; for herein I perceiv, that henceforth the labors of impartial love towards the* Publick, *are not like to bee in vain, as for the moſt part they have been heretofore, and that there*

will be ſom real encouragement for the making of rational overtures, tending to reſolv that grand queſtion, which is propoſed by the Pſalmiſt in the name of all men, who, with one and the ſame accent, ſay; Pſal. 4. 6. Who will ſhew us any good? *Therefore ſince the Wiſdom of the* Parlament *hath enacted a way to anſwer the* Quere, *as to the Trade of this Nation (which is a manifeſt demonſtratiõ of their eminent care for the* Publick) *it hath raiſed with joie both mine own, and the thoughts of ſom others to a forwardneſs of contributing, that which might bee ſubſervient and uſeful to that deſign; that as Bees belonging to the ſame hive, wee ſhould bring our honie together, to bee preſerved & encreaſed in one ſtock for the good of all. In order to this reſolution, and as a teſtimonie of gratitude, I thought it might bee ſeaſonable to offer to your Honors, and under your name to the* Publick, *this following Epiſtolary* Diſcourſ, *which relate's unto the advancement of Agriculture,* bee-ing one of the Nobleſt and moſt neceſſarie parts of Induſtrie belonging to a Common-wealth, the firſt ground of mutual trading amongſt men, and the well-ſpring of wealth in all well-ordered Societies. *And if concerning this ſubject (as beeing a main Intereſt of State) ſom courſ in due time were thought upon to ſet forward the Judicial, & regulate the*

Practical

Practical waie of Husbandrie, such overtures could bee made in that kinde, as would sensibly (even to the meaneſt capacitie) demonſtrate a very Cornu-Copia *and fulneſs to bee atteined of the choiſeſt temporal bleſsings to ſupply all men's wants. And although I cannot ſay much of mine own experience in this matter, yet Providence having directed mee by the improvement of ſeveral relatiõs unto the* Experiences *and* Obſervations *of others, I finde my ſelf obliged to becom a conduit-pipe thereof towards the* Publick, *chiefly now, where there is ſo favorable an aſpect of Patronage frõ thoſe that are in eminent places towards thoſe that minde publick advantages.* Pro. 11.26. *It is ſaid in the Proverbs,* that hee who doth with-hold Corn the people ſhall curſe him; but a bleſsing ſhall bee upon the head of him that ſelleth it. *If not to impart the means of livelihood to thoſe that ſtand in need thereof, when it is in our power to ſupply them therewith, bee to withhold the ſame; & this deſerve's a curſ: then no man can blame mee for the largeneſs of this communication, from which all that ſhall reap any benefit, are thereby to bee indebted unto your Publick affections, and bleſs them as the cauſ, whoſe influence hath given it this production; for it is intended onely as a pledg of further endeavors in the ſame & other kindes, for which the Church in due time will bee beholden*

to

to your care and vigilance, when the tenders thereof shall finde that acceptance, & the furtherance thereof, that encouragement which your wisdom and love to the Publick shall finde expedient to bestow thereon. May the God of all grace and goodness so bless your Consultations for the good of this State, that they may end in the settlement of a firm and lasting Peace, where not only outward Plenty and Prosperitie, but the treasures of a better life in the Kingdom of Jesus Christ, may be enjoyed to the praise of God the Father. These are, and shall be the daily prayers of

Your Honor's

truly faithful and most

humble Servant

SAMUEL HARTLIB.

Sir *Richard Weston* late of *Sutton* in the Countie of *Surrey* his Legacie to his Sons, &c. *Anno Dom.* 1645.

My Sons!

Have left this ſhort enſuing Treatiſe to you as a Legacie, if I ſhall not live my ſelf to ſhew you what therein is written by Examples, which, I know, inſtruct far more then Precepts; yet Precepts from a dying Father, inſtructing of his Children what hee hath ſeen and known, and received information of from witneſſes free from all Exceptions, ſhould make ſuch impreſſion on them, as at leaſt to believ their Father writ what hee thought was true, and therefore ſuppoſe thoſe things worthy to bee put in practice by them, which hee himſelf would have don, if it had pleaſed God to have granted him Life and Libertie, eſpecially ſeeing the matter it ſelf, which is required by him to bee don, is in ſhew ſo profitable and ſo eaſie to bee effected, and with ſo little charge, conſidering the great gain that is propoſed by it, that not any thing can reſtrain a rational man from trial thereof, but not giving credit to the Relator.

The whole Discourſ ſhews you how to improve barren and heathie Land, and how to raiſ more then ordinarie profit thereof, by ſuch waies and means as are not practiſed in *England*; but as commonly in ſom parts of *Brabant* and *Flanders*, as the Husbandrie of Wheat and Rye is here. By that means you may nobly augment your Eſtates, and will receiv ſo much the more profit and praiſ, by how much with more induſtrie and diligence you govern your affairs, and will not onely bee imitated, but alſo honored by your Neighbors, when they ſhall ſee your Labors proſper ſo far as to convert barren and heathie ground, left unhusbanded for many ages, into as commodious arrable Land, with paſtures and Meadows, as any bee in this Kingdom; And certainly that man is worthie of Praiſ and Honor, who beeing poſſeſſor of a large and barren demeaſnes conſtrain's it by his labor and induſtrie to produce extraordinarie fruit, which redound's not onely to his own particular profit, but alſo to the publick benefit. *Cato* ſaith, it is a great ſhame to a man, not to leav his inheritance greater to his Succeſſors then hee received it from his Predeceſſors; and thar hee deſpiſeth the Liberalities of God, who by ſlothfulneſs looſeth that which his Land may bring forth, as not ſeeming willing to reap the fruits which God hath offered him; Nay, hee threaten's the crime of high Treaſon to thoſe that do not augment their Patrimonie ſo much as the increaſ ſurmount's the Principal; It is a thing much celebrated by Antiquitie, and thought the nobleſt way to gather wealth, for to imploie one's wit and monie upon his Land, and by that means to augment his Eſtate. If you obſerv the common courſ of things, you will finde that Husbandrie is the end, which men of all Eſtates in the world do point at:

For

For to what purpoſe do Souldiers, Scholars, Lawyers, Merchants, and all men of occupations and trades, toil and labor with great affection, but to get monie; & with that monie when they have gotten it, but to purchaſe Land; and to what end do they buy that Land, but to receiv the fruits of it to live; and how ſhall one receiv the fruits of it, but by his own Husbandrie, or by a Farmers? So that it appear's by degrees, that what courſ ſoëver a man taketh in the world, at laſt hee cometh to Husbandrie, which is the moſt common occupation among men, the moſt natural and holie, beeing commanded by the mouth of God to our firſt Fathers. There is care and diligence requiſite in Husbandrie, as there is in all the Actions of the world; and therefore as a Captain hath a Lievtenant to command his Souldiers in his abſence, or for his eaſ: So muſt you provide ſom able honeſt man, to whom you will commit the execution of ſuch things as you your ſelvs cannot do without too much labor, whereof you muſt often take an account and confer with him, as occaſion ſhall require, about your buſineſs: that nothing may bee left undon for want of Providence: To ſuch a man you muſt give good wages, with intent to advance your own gain, and take the more eaſ by reaſon of his honeſtie and knowledg.

You will finde Husbandrie (after you have once had experience of it) to bee very pleaſing to you, and ſo exceeding profitable, that it will make you diligent: for no man of any Art or Science (except an Alchimiſt) ever pretẽded ſo much gain any other way, as you ſhal ſee demonſtrated in this enſuing Treatiſe: The Uſurer double's but his principal, with Intereſt upon Intereſt, in Seven years; but by this little Treatiſe you ſhall learn how to do more then treble your principal in one years cõpaſs:

And you ſhall ſee how an induſtrious man in *Brabant* and *Flanders* would bring 500 Acres of barren and heathie Land, that was not worth at the moſt above 5 l. a year, to bee worth 7000 l. a year, in leſs time then ſeven years; I know no reaſon why the like may not bee don in *England*: for wee are under as good a Climate as they are. Our heathie Land, that is neither Sand nor Loam, is as good a ſoil as their barren ground is: Wee have not onely Dung to enrich our Land, but alſo Lime and Marl, of which they know not the uſe, where they ſow their gainfulleſt Commodities, mentioned in this enſuing Treatiſe, nor of any other Manure, but only Dung. In fine, I am certain there is none of their commodities but grow in *England*, as they do in *Brabant* and *Flanders*, but ours are not of the ſame kinde as theirs, nor put to the ſame uſe; what cannot bee vented at home may as well bee vented from hence into *Holland*, as the like Commodities are from *Flanders* thither: I will ſay no more of this Subject in the Preface, only it remain's to tell you, That you muſt not exſpect either Eloquence or Method in this enſuing Treatiſe, but a true Storie plainly ſet forth in the laſt Will and Teſtament of your Father, which hee would have you execute. But before all things to bee ſure you lay the foundation of your Husbandrie upon the bleſſings of Almightie God, continually imploring his Divine aid and aſſiſtance in all your labors; for it is God that give's the increaſ, and believing this as the quinteſſence and ſoul of Husbandrie; *Primùm quærite Regnum Dei, & poſtea hæc omnia adjicientur vobis.* Theſe things beeing briefly premiſed, I will leave the reſt to this ſhort enſuing Treatiſe, and commit you all with a Father's bleſſing to the Protection and Providence of Almightie God.

It

IT is a certain thing, that the chiefeſt and fundamentalleſt point in *Husbandrie*, is, To underſtand the nature and condition of the Land that one would Till; and to ſow it with ſuch Seeds as it will produce, either Naturally, or by Art, that which may turn to a man's greateſt profit and advantage. I did think I had underſtood that point (when I went out of *England*) after thirtie years experience in *Husbandrie*, and having improved my Land as much as any man in this Kingdom hath don, both by Water and Fire. But after I had been a while in *Brabant* and *Flanders*, I found I was to learn a new leſſon in point of *Husbandrie*; for that the barrenneſt, Heathie and Sandie Lands in thoſe Countries did produce richer Commodities, by an ordinarie way of *Husbandrie* there in practice, then the ſtrongeſt and richeſt grounds that were in both thoſe Conntries. When I firſt arrived at *Dunkirk*, and went to *Bridges*, (which was near fortie miles) I ſaw a rich Countrie as ever my eies beheld, ſtock't with goodly *Wheat* and *Barlie*, and excellent Meadows and Paſtures. The ſoil began to alter into worſ, mid-way between *Bridges* and *Gaunt*, which where twentie four *Engliſh* miles aſunder; and ſo ſoon as I was paſt *Gaunt*, in my journey towards *Antwerp*, I did ſee ſuch Land for above twentie miles together, that I cannot compare to any ground more like, then the Land by *Sandie Chappel*, three miles diſtant from *Kingſton* upon *Thames*. A great part of the High-waies, out of the Road and Track of Horſes and Carts, did bear Heath; and ſuch Incloſures, on the inſide of the waies, which were not kept in Tillage, did either produce *Heath* or *Broom* of their own natures. The ſoil did not much amend till I came within two miles of *Antwerp*, wch was thirtie *Engliſh* miles from *Gaunt*. There I ſaw a goodlie Marſh, or

feeding ground for Cattel, which was kept with a ſtrong Banck for beeing overflowed by the river of *Sceld*, under which notwithſtanding there lay Sluces to let in the Water when they pleaſed, and Ditches were made in the Marſh to convey it back into the River at low Tides when they thought fit. On the other ſide of *Antwerp* was Contribution-land lying in *Brabant*, which naturally was as barren and apt to Heath as any land betwixt that Citie and *Gaunt*. I ſtaied not long at *Antwerp* before I returned to *Gaunt*, and diligently reviewing the Countrie as I went back, I could finde no other Corn to grow there, then *Rie*, *Oats*, and *French Wheat*; which ſeemed a ſufficient Teſtimonie to mee of the barrenneſs of the ſoil, which would neither bear *Wheat*, *Barlie*, or *Peaſ*; and for that the former Grains did uſually grow in *England* upon the edg of Forreſts and Heathie grounds. A few daies after my return, I fell into diſcourſ with a Dutch Merchant, then living at *Gaunt*, but had lived ſom years in *England*, and told him that I did not think that all *Flanders* had yielded ſo much barren ground as I had ſeen between *Gaunt* and *Antwerp*. Hee anſwered mee, that that Land was the richeſt part of all *Flanders*. I ſmiled to hear him ſay ſo, thinking at firſt hee had jeſted, and I replied, That I believed, that one Acre of Land between *Bridges* and *Dunkirk*, was worth ten Acres of any Land I ſaw there between *Gaunt* and *Antwerp* (excepting the Marſh land, and ſom little ſtraps of Meadow by the River ſide): for the one did bear goodlie *Wheat*, *Barlie* and *Peaſ*, and was in many places naturally excellent Meadow and Paſture; and the other would carrie no other Corn but *Rie*, *French Wheat*, and *Oats*, and would never bear any conſiderable graſs, but turn'd preſently after it was laid down to Heath or Broom. The Merchant

Merchant told mee again, that their beſt Commodities were pull'd and cut before I went that waie; but hee could prove that that Land did yield more profit yearly then the beſt Land in *Flanders*, and that the *Bores* (for ſo they term their *Farmers*) were richer there then in any part of the Countrie. I muſt confeſs at firſt I thought his diſcourſe to bee ſom kinde of Riddle, but ſeeing him earneſt in affirming that which ſeem'd ſtrange to mee; I deſired him to explain himſelf, how it was poſſible, that that Land ſhould yield more profit then the other. I will tell you (ſaid hee) the reaſon why it yieldeth more profit, becauſe that Land is natural to bear *Flax*, which is called the *Wealth* of *Flanders*; and one Acre of good *Flax* is worth four or five Acres of the beſt Corn which groweth between *Dunkirk* & *Bridges*; and after the *Flax* is pull'd, it will preſently bear a Crop of *Turnips*; which may bee better worth, Acre for Acre, then the beſt Corn in the Countrie. After that Crop is off, about April following you may ſow the ſame Land with *Oats*; and upon them *Clover-garſs* ſeed onely harrowing it with buſhes, which will com up after the *Oats* are mowed, and that year yield you a very great Paſture till Chriſtmas; and the next year following you may cut that graſs three times, & it will every time bear ſuch a burden, and ſo good to feed all ſorts of Cattel, as the beſt Meadows in the Countrie do not yield the like; and will continue good four or five years together without ſowing it. After this wee parted. At firſt I wondered much at his diſcourſe; but much more at the ignorance and ſlothfulneſs of our Countrie which beeing near to *Flanders*, and many Merchants and Gentlemen travelling thither daily, none ſhould underſtand, or at leaſt put in practice theſe *Husbandries*, there beeing ſo much barren

and

and Heathie Land in *England* of very little value, which might by following their Example in these *Husbandries* bee made more profitable, then the best Land in this Kingdom. I after pondered what the Merchant said all that daie and the next, and then began to imagine with my self, what an huge *Improvement* I might make of my own estatte, if these things were true which hee had told mee; and if God Almightie pleased to permit mee quietly to enjoy it. And to bee further satisfied, I sent another *Dutchman* in the Town that had been in *England*, with whom I was grown acquainted, and desired him to inform himself from som of the *Bores* in the Countrie, whether those things the Merchant had affirmed to mee were true. Hee returned mee an Answer from three or four, whom hee said hee knew to bee honest men and understanding those *Husbandries*, that a *Gemmet* of *Flax*, (which was their Acre, but somwhat more in quantitie then ours) might well produce fourtie or fiftie pounds worth of *Flax*, if the Land were well dung'd and Husbanded, and sowed with good East-Countrie seed, and that it pleased God to send convenient rain after it was sowed, and a seasonable time till Harvest. These were no other conditions, then I conceived all other seeds and grain to bee subject to, either to prove good or bad. And for the other questions wherin I desired to bee satisfied, concerning the *Turnips* and *Clover-grass*, hee told mee they did concur in all with the Merchant, without any other condition or limitation. The Winter after I did examine divers persons upon the like questions, who I thought did understand that business, and found very little difference in their relations. And in *April* following, which was the chiefest time for sowing of *Flax* and *Clover-grass* seed, I did often walk into the Fields a mile

or

or more out of the Town, and expostulated the business with the *Boors*, when they were sowing of *Flax* and *Clover-grass* seed, and afterwards observ'd that these things did prosper very well, on such ground as I conceiv'd to bee extreme barren of its own Nature. But further to inform my self more fully what an Acre of *Flax*, might bee worth, I bought an *English* rod of *Flax*, when it was grown up, neither the best nor worst, and caused it to be pull'd, water'd, and dress'd by it self; then valued it as *Flax* was sold the week following in the market at *Gaunt*, and the seed likewise. Afterwards I cast what eight rod, which was an Acre, would rise unto, according to that valuation; and I found that it came to thirtie six pound, fourteen shillings, six pence, and though by that rate an Acre did not com to fortie pounds, yet it made mee believ, that an Acre of good *Flax* might bee worth fortie pound and more; for that which I tried was but indifferent *Flax*.

I went presently afterwards to *Antwerp*, and saw almost every third or fourth field by the highway side for almost twentie five miles together, stocked with goodlie *Flax*, far beyond that which I bought to make my Trial of; Whereof som was pull'd, and the rest was ready to pull. The similitude of a great quantitie of Land I had in *England* unto theirs in *Flanders* and *Brabant*, which I saw did bear their richest Commodities: and my Loss in *England* both of personal and real Estate, made mee enquire after all *Husbandries* of those Countries of such as I conceiv'd could any waie instruct mee, that I might learn something, or other, wherby to repair my fortunes, if hereafter it pleas'd Almightie God to give mee leav to enjoie my own Estate in Peace again. And beeing one day in companie of som Merchants, It happen'd that

diſcourſ fell out about *Improvement* of their barren ground. I ſaid that I had a great quantitie of Barren and Heathie Land in *England*, that I thought might bee eaſily brought to bear *Flax*, *Turnips* and *Clover-graſs* as well as their barren Lands did in *Flanders* and *Brabant*. To which a Merchant anſwered, that hee would carrie mee to a man within three miles of *Antwerp*, who had taken a *Farm upon Improvement*, which was juſt ſuch Heathie Land as I deſcrib'd mine to bee. For hee was about five years ſince to have bought it, and when hee ſaw it all Heath, hee would not meddle with it; but the *Farmer* had ſo improv'd it alreadie, that hee had now growing upon it, a Nurſery of twelv Acres of all ſorts of Trees, as *Pear*-Trees, *Apple*-Trees, *Cherry*-Trees, *Cheſnut* and *Walnut*-Trees, *Oaks*, *Aſhes*, *Elms*, and the like; hee had there alſo growing both *Flax*, *Turnips*, *Clover-graſs*, *Roman beans*, and moſt ſorts of Corn, and hee had planted a *Hop*-ground, and an *Orchard*; hee ſaid hee would tell mee what *Husbandrie* hee uſed to make ſuch a ſtrange Converſion, and that I could not pleaſ him better then to com to ſee it, and applaud his *Husbandrie*: and hee did aſſure mee, that it was worth my Journie, and to bee inform'd from him: for never a man in that Countrie could better inſtruct mee, then hee; and I will (ſaid hee) go thither with you, when you pleaſ. I thanked him very kindly for his offer, and told him I would wait upon him thither to morrow morning. It was agreed between us, and ſom other that were there ſaid, they would wait on us both to ſee this wonder. But I asked him before wee parted, what that taking of a *Farm upon Improvement* was, which hee before did ſpeak of. Hee anſwered, that when another had bought the Land, this man offered more Rent then hee could make of it at that time, to

have

have a Leaſ for one and twentie years, upon condition, that whatſoëver four indifferent perſons (whereof two to bee choſen by the one, and two by the other) ſhould judg the Farm to bee improved above the Rent at the end of his Leaſ, the *Owner* was to pay ſo much in value to the Tenant for his improving it. I told him it was a waie of letting land I never knew of before: Hee anſwered it was an ordinarie waie with them of letting ſuch barren Land, as men could not tell how to manage themſelvs.

The next daie, wee went thither, and the firſt thing wee ſaw was his *Nurſerie of trees*, which did grow and proſper very well, and hee made accompt they would yield him ten thouſand pounds before his Leaſ was expired, and as I remember hee valued them one with another but at two ſhillings a tree. Then I ſaw a little *Cloſe of flax*, which I eſteemed to bee about three engliſh acres: of which flax hee told mee, the Merchant that brought mee thither before I came from *Antwerp*, that hee had made an hundred and fiftie pounds, which was by my computation fiftie pounds an Acre. I alſo ſaw growing there very good *Turnips* and excellent *Clover-graſs*, which hee valued to bee then worth twelv pound an Acre. I after ſaw it cutting the firſt daie of *June* 1644, beeing then two foot long, and very thick, and went thither again the nine and twentieth daie of the ſame moneth, and ſaw the ſame graſs grow up, and then cutting again, beeing twentie Inches long, I ſaw it cutting again in *Auguſt* following, beeing then eighteen inches long. I viewed the grounds round about, and found the skirts of the cloſes left unploughed to bee heath: and both hee and the Merchant affirmed, all the reſt, where his *flax* and *Clover-graſs* grew, was heath but

three years before. I was very inquisitive of him to know what husbandrie hee used to the land, for to convert it from heath to bear such rich Commodities. Hee told mee, first hee broke it up with a strong Team of horses, then ploughed it cross, afterwards tore off the heath with a great harrow, then gathered it up and burnt it, and laid about twentie loads of dung upon an Acre, and spred it upon the Land; then ploughed it again, and sowed the first crop with *Rye*, the next with *Oats*; and when hee had harrowed his *Oats*, hee sowed *Clover grass*-seed upon them, which hee harrowed with a bundle of bushes under his harrow, and that came, after the *Oats* was off, to be of a very good pasture before *Michaelmas*; and this third year hee had mowed the *Clover-grass* thrice, as I had seen, and it would com to a very good pasture quickly, to feed till *Christmas*; and the same hee thought hee should do for three years more; but afterwards the ground would turn to an ordinarie grass. Hee said, hee used his ground where his flax grew, as his others; but first again, about half the quantitie of dung hee did at first; and then sowed it with *flax*, and upon the flax *Clover-grass*-seed, as hee had don before upon the *Oats*, his *Roman-beans*, his Hops, and *Orchard* thrived very well, and all with the same quantitie of dung, proportionably used; for there they knew no other *Manure*. I askt him how hee could make 12 l. of an acre of this *Clover-grass*: hee said, either by feeding *Cattle*, or keeping *Kine*, or laying it for seed after the first cut. For an Acre of it beeing made part into haie, and the rest fed green, would keep four Kine, winter and summer; and an Acre laid for seed might carry five bushels, which valued at 6 d. a pound, came to 8 l. Sterling; besides the first and second cuts of grass and hay,

and

and the after-pasture. Hee said the best time for sowing *Flax* and *Clover-grass* seeds was about the beginning of *April*, presently after a showr of rain. Som continue sowing of *Flax* until the end of *May*, and som sow after; though I know no cause to commend their slowness, in sowing of it so late. I was not very inquisitive after his other Commodities. I saw by his *Turnips* which hee sowed upon his heathie land, at his first breaking up, that hee differed in that point from all other husband-men in those Countries, who sowed them immediately after *Rye* or *Flax*; but those things are left to every one's experience to proceed therein as he think's best, according to his own Observation. Now what I had observed here, and between *Gaunt* and *Antwerp*, my Reason told mee, (grounded upon som former experience,) that there was no land that naturally bore heath, being either of a sandie, or loamie mould, but might by *devonshiring* first (which I prefer before their Husbandrie in *Flanders*, whereunto adding som *Dung*, or *Lime*, or *Marl*, in fit proportion, as shall bee hereafter expressed) may bee made better then the best land, that *Flanders* or *England* doth afford. For no man with reason can denie, but that *Land is best, which will bring forth such Commodities, as will yield most monie to make one wealthie and rich*; for though Wealth and Riches may consist either in Cattle, Corn, Houshold-stuff, Plate or Jewels; yet, when those things are valued, wee commonly say, They are worth so much *monie*. So *Regina Pecunia*, *Monie* is the *Queen* that command's all. Now if the same quantitie of Acres of poor heathie Land, by producing *Flax*, *Turnips*, & *Clover-grass*, will yield more monie then the rich Land, which yieldeth Wheat, Barlie, Meadow, and good Pasture: then by consequence it followeth, that the *poor* Land is

better then the *Rich*. And I ſuppoſe that they finde by experience in *Flanders* that their rich land will naturally bear thoſe Commodities; otherwiſe they could not bee ignorant that they do ſo far exceed their beſt Corn and Meadows in mattter of profit, which appeareth clearly by their own valuations: for they value an Acre of *Flax* may bee worth fortie or fiftie pound. An Acre of *Turnips* worth eight pound, or ten pound; an Acre of *Clovergraſs* worth ten or twelv pound, whereas they value their beſt *Barley* may bee worth ten or twelv pound, their beſt *Wheat* may bee worth five or ſix pound an Acre, and their beſt *Meadow* worth four or five pound an Acre: Now if you compare the value of theſe Commodities together, ſuppoſing the rich Land will not bear the other, which are the richer Commodities, ſo well as the poor; you muſt needs conclude the poorer Land to bee the better. And it is a ſtrong Argument to mee, that their rich land will not bear thoſe rich Commodities ſo naturally as the Heathie and Sandie Land doth; for though I went often between *Bridges* and *Dunkirk*, which is thirty nine miles, beeing the richeſt Land in *Flanders*, and where there is goodly *Wheat*, *Barley*, and *Meadows*, as ever my eies beheld; yet I never ſaw in all that ground, to my remembrance, one Acre of *Flax*, *Turnips*, or *Clovergraſs*: whereas, on the contrarie, between *Gaunt* and *Antwerp*, (which is thirtie miles, and the pooreſt Land in all the Countrie, much like *Sandie*-Chappel in *Surrie*, or ſom part of the Heathie Land in *Windſor-forreſt*:) I have ſeen many hundreds of Acres of goodlie *Flax*, *Turnips*, and *Clover-graſs*, cloſe by the High-way ſide, and their Corn there not any thing but *Rie*, *French Wheat*, and *Oats*.

It is not onely dung, which cauſeth the fertilitie in thoſe

thoſe Barren, Heathie, and ſandie Lands for to bring forth thoſe rich Commodities; but partly the nature of thoſe ſeeds, which do delight to grow rather in a light and gentle Land, then in one too ſtiff and heavie. Though it is true, that dung is of that virtue, that it heat's, fatten's, ſweeten's, and reclaim's all Barren grounds: and unſlakt *Lime* and *Marl* are of as great an Efficacie, beeing proportionably tempered with *Earth* and *Aſhes*, and of longer continuance to enrich Land, as I will ſhew hereafter. But becauſ ſom wil ſay, that the *burning of the Turff* (which wee call *Devonſhiring*) will make the ground the worſ after three years, I do moſt confidently affirm, upon my own experience, that, with the addition of *Dung*, or *Lime*, or *Marl*, in fit proportions, that there is no ſuch *Husbandrie* in the World, perfectly to prepare any Heathie Land, and make it nouriſh, receiv and ripen ſeeds. For the Earth is, as it were, renewed by the Fire, having no other Roots in the entrails of it, produceth nothing in many years but what one ſow's upon it; and ſhall remain vigorous enough to ſerv as long as one of knowledg and underſtanding will deſire it. And therefore I ſhall adviſe you to prefer this *Husbandrie* upon your Heathie Land before any other.

Though they have no other manure to mend their Land, but Dung in the Barren and Heathie Land in *Flanders* and *Brabant*: yet they have a very fine way in *Brabant* to raiſ a great quantitie of Dung; the practice whereof may much advance the Improvement of St *Leonard*'s Forreſt. They that keep ſheep there, upon the Heaths, houſ them every night, and in the Summer, at noon, firſt having laid three or four Inches of Sand at the bottom of the Floor, whereon they lodg their ſheep for a night or two, which tread their Dung and Pils into the

the Sand, and so they daily use more Sand to bee used in the same manner, until the quantitie bee grown so great, that the sheep cannot conveniently go in or out. Then they cast that out of the Hous, and put in more Sand, and so proceed throughout the year, and by this means three or four hundred sheep will raise one thousand Loads of Dung in a year: and eight hundred sheep two thousand Loads, which, allowing twentie Loads to an Acre, will dung an hundred Acres yearly: and this Dung by experience doth mightily improve such Heathie Land as St *Leonard*'s is. Besides there is *Marl* in most part of the *Forrests*. I account any *Mine* that is free from stones, and lieth so thick, as it is worth the digging, and near and convenient to carrie to your Land, and of a clammie substance, when it is wet, though it seem only *Clay* or *Loam*, yet to bee *Marl*, and very good Manure for Sandie and Heathie Land, bee it of what Color it will; as either Graie, Yellow, or Blue; and fortie Loads of it laid upon an acre in summer, and presently spread, and so let lie all winter to incorporate with the earth, then *Devonshired* the next *March*, and spread upon the land and Sow'd, will mightily improve it. I did use six Acres thus, that had nothing but *Heath* growing upon it, and had two Crops of Corn from it; and the third year it came of it self to bee as good Grass as ever I saw grow in any Meadow in *England*. I saw another great Improvement in *Clement Stokes* Farm adjoining to the Forrest; hee had Land, that hee let out two years together, for twelv pence an Acre: at last hee *Devonshired* it, and caused his hills, before they were burnt, to bee set a just rod square one from another; and when they were burnt, hee put a peck of unslackt *Lime* into every hillock beeing eight-score hills upon an Acre, took up just a Load of *Lime*, which

which was fortie Bushels, this *Lime* beeing slackt in the hills, with the first Rain was mingled together with the Ashes, and then spread upon the Land, and after sow'd with *Wheat*; and brought as good as any was in the Countrie: and the next year a very good Crop of *Oats*, and the year following corn to as good Grass as any hee had to his Farm. This I hold to bee the cheapest *Husbandrie*: becaus four or five Load of *Fern*, of which there is store in the Forrest, beeing cut from the beginning of *July* to the middle of *August*, will burn off twelv Loads of *Chalk* to *Lime*; and though your *Chalk* cost dear the bringing thither; yet the *Lime* will not stand you in twelv shillings a Load, and by this way you save much carriage, and so by consequence may compass to manure yearly much more Land. As for Example, you carrie but one Load of *Lime* to your Land, whereas by the other waies you must carrie twentie Loads of Dung; and fortie Loads of *Marl*. So as by the *Lime*, if that will do as well, you may *Lime* twentie Acres as soun as you can Dung one Acre, and fortie Acres for one with *Marl*; But I advise you to make Trial your selvs of all these several *Husbandries*, and then to follow that which you finde cheapest and best.

I have set down at large, how I came first to know these *Husbandries*, and how I was satisfied in these particulars. I have also set down three several waies to improve your Land; now I will lay down the charge of each in severaltie; then cast up the profit from one Acre to five and twentie Acres; then to fiftie, and so to an hundred Acres; by which it shall appear, that by an ordinarie way of *Husbandrie*, according to the value, which they make of like Commodities in *Flanders*, how that by improving an hundred Acres of Heathie Land

every year, as namely of St *Leonard*'s Forrest, and sowing the Seeds of *Flax*, *Turnips* and *Clover-grass*, you may in five years improve five hundred Acres to bee worth above seven thousand pounds a year. The particular charge of an Acre of *Flax* is as followeth:

First, *Devonshiring* of an Acre	01	00	00
A load of lime to put into the hills	00	12	00
The ploughing and harrowing of an Acre	00	06	00
Three bushel of *Flax-seed* at thirteen shillings four pence the bushel	02	00	00
The weeding of an Acre	00	01	00
Pulling and binding an Acre	00	10	00
Graffing the Seed from the Flax	00	06	00
Watring, drying, swinging and beating the Flax of nine hundred weight upon an Acre	04	10	00
This is the uttermost charge that I could learn: so the whole cometh to	l. 09	s. 5	d. 00

Nine hundred pound weight of *Flax*, upon an Acre at eight Stivers the pound, wth was an ordinarie price in *Gaunt*, when I was there, together with the Seed, valued to bee worth — 40 00 00

Now if you add fifteen shillings an Acre more, towards Charges or Losses, the Account beeing already ten pound an Acre, short of the value of their best *Flax*, yet remain's above all Charges clear for 25 Acres at 30 l. the Acre — 750 00 00

By

By the ſame Account you will bee at five hundred pound charge for fiftie Acres, and then receiv at fortie pound an Acre, two thouſand pound; but clear above all Charges but——— } 1500 l.

The like Account of a thouſand pound charge for an hundred Acres; you receiv upon the Account of fortie pound an Acre, four thouſand pound; but clear above all Charges——— } 3000 l.

This thouſand pound Charge for an hundred Acres is onely ſuppoſed, in caſe you lay out all the Charge before you receiv ony Monie for part of your *Flax*; but before you are out ſeven hundred pound, ſom Monie will com in for *Flax* continually, ſo as indeed you ſhall not need to go out above ſevē hundred pound at all in ſtock, and after the firſt years profit is com in, you cannot Account that you are out any thing from your purſ, becauſ you have your full ſtock again, & three thouſand pound more.

But this is not all the profit you are to exſpect from your hundred Acres the firſt year; for after the *Flax* is pull'd, which will bee either in *July* or *Auguſt*, the ſame Land may bee ſowed with *Turnips*, and prove according to the *Flander's* Account, worth eight pound an Acre, over and above all charges: ſo twentie five Acres cometh to two hundred pound; fiftie Acres to four hundred pound, and an hundred Acres to eight hundred pound. They ſow in *Flanders* but two pound and an half of *Turnip* ſeed upon an Acre, which was worth when I was there, but twelv pence, and plough it once after the

Flax is pull'd, then harrow it, and weed it, if there bee caus, and that is all the charge concerning that busines.

Both these Crops are sow'd, ripe and ready to bee pull'd within eight months; that is, between the beginning of *April* and the end of *November*: so the profit of an hundred Acres the first year, cometh to, besides all charges on this Account, unto three thousand eight hundred pound. And the hundred pound allowed for charges, may very well com into your purs again within the other four Months.

When the *Turnips* are pull'd, I would have the same hundred Acres made ready again to bee sow'd with *Clover-gras* seed alone, about the begining of *April* then next following, therein altering the custom of *Brabant* & *Flanders*, which is to sow it immediately either with or after the Corn. For I found by Experience in *Herefordshire*, that it will thrive much better the first year, and turn to more profit alone, then a Crop of *Oats* and it sow'd together will do.

The charge of an Acre is first ploughing and harrowing about —— 00 05 00

Ten pound of Seed as it cost mee at *Antwerp* 1645 at six pence a pound —— 00 05 00

Cutting the gras twice, making the Haie, and threshing out the Seed —— 01 10 00

So the whole charge is —— 02 00 00

The second year's profit.

Which beeing deducted there remains clear for one Acre, according to the *Brabant* and *Flanders* Account —— } 10 l.

Which for twentie five Acres cometh to two hundred and fiftie pound, for fiftie Acres, to five hundred pound, and for an hundred Acres to —— } 1000 l.

Then

Then an hundred Acres more must bee *Devonshired*, and sow'd with *Flax* and *Turnips*, as is before expressed, which, with God's blessing, may yield the like profit of three thousand eight hundred pound, whereto the thousand pound for *Clover-grass* beeing added, the whole profit of the second year from two hundred Acres, amounteth to four thousand eight hundred pound — 4800 l.

The third year's profit.

Then the last hundred Acres, sowed with *Flax* and *Turnips*, must bee sowed as before, with *Clover-grass-seed*, which, according to the former accompt, coming to one thousand pound, and an hundred Acres more *devonshiring*, as formerly, and sowed with *flax* and *Turnips*, yielding the like profit of three thousand eight hundred pound, as is before specified, adding thereunto the two hundred Acres of *Clover-grass*, the whole profit of the third year is — 5800 l.

The fourth year's profit.

Then the hundred Acres sowed before with *Flax*, and *Turnips*, must bee sowed as formerly with *Clover-grass*-seeds, which yielding a thousand pound, according to the former Accompts, and another hundred Acres *devonshired* as formerly, and sowed with *Flax* and *Turnips*, and yielding like profit of three thousand eight hundred pound, and adding thereunto the three hundred Acres formerly sowed with *Clover-grass*-seed, make's the whole profit of the fourth year — 6800 l.

The fifth years profit.

Then the laſt hundred Acres ſowed w^th^ *Flax* and *Turnips*, muſt bee ſowed as before with *Clover graſs*-ſeed, which yieldeth like profit of a thouſand pound, and another hundred Acres *devonſhired* as formerly, and ſowed with *Flax* and *Turnips*, yielding the like profit of three thouſand eight hundred pounds, thereto adding the four hundred Acres formerly ſowed with *Clover-graſs* ſeed, make's the whole profit of the fifth year——————— } 7800 l.

Thus have I plainly ſhewed what I promiſed in my Preface, that was, how an induſtrious man in *Brabant* and *Flanders* would convert five hundred Acres of barren and heathie Land from little value in five years to bee worth above ſeven thouſand pounds a year.

You ſee, you have better means to mend your Land then they have; your Land lieth in a manner under the ſame Climate; for *Chicheſter* and *Mecklin* are in one degree; the Soil is much alike, as I have ſhewed, you may have as good a vent for your Commodities, as they have for theirs, if you pleaſe; and therefore I do not know what Reaſon can hinder you from putting theſe things into practice.

You may continue this yearly profit of ſeven thouſand eight hundred a year upon this five hundred Acres. If you will by *Liming*, *dunging*, or *marling*, and *devonſhiring* again the firſt hundred Acres, laid down with *Clover-graſs*, and ſowing it with *Flax* and *Turnips*, as before, and ſo go round with every hundred Acres, as formerly in its courſe; but having great ſtore of barren and heathie ground,

ground, you were better improve that, and let the *Clover-grass* cõtinue as long as it will. And if after five years cõtinuance it turneth to a mingled Grass; yet that will bee as good as most Meadows and Pastures, that I know in *England*, for it turn's cõmonly from a red Honie-Suckle to a white, which wee repute the sweetest Grass, although it doth not carrie the greater burthen. And I am perswaded it will continue longer if it bee kept for Seed and cut but twice, whereas they commonly cut it thrice a year in *Flanders* alwaies in the Sap, which will kill Fern.

Now I will shew you how they vent these Commodities, that you may learn the better, how to vent yours. First, they make great store of Linnen themselvs, and send it most for *London*, what they make not in Cloath; they have a Market every Thursdaie at a place called St *Nicolas*, almost mid-waie between *Antwerp* and *Gaunt*, whither Merchants com on purpose to buy it, and send it into *Holland*, and there sell it at dear rates. I met with a Linnen Draper of *London*, when I was at *Gaunt*, and questioning him what vent there was for *Flax* at *London*: hee told mee that before these troublesom times, if I had had a very great quantitie, hee could have helped mee to Chapmen to have bought it off at dearer rates at *London*, then usually they sold it at in *Flanders*; for hee said, hee did believ there was not less then an hundred thousand pounds worth of *Flax* brought yearly into *England* from Forreign parts; a great part whereof to his knowledg was sent from *London* into *Lancashire*, there made into Cloath, and afterwards brought back in Cloath, and sold in *London*; and if times grew peaceaple again in *England*, hee told mee, I need not doubt the venting of more *Flax* at *London*, then ever I would have to sell; and two honest

English

Engliſh Merchants of my Acquaintance did aſſure mee, that if I could not ſell my *Flax* at *London* to my content, they would tranſport it for mee into *Holland*, where I might ſell it dearer then they ſold their *Flax* in *Flanders*: for Merchants uſually ſent for *Flax* out of *Flanders*, and ſold it again in *Holland*, at dearer rates then they paid for it there.

But if you finde that theſe Commodities thrive with you, and you grow rich by them; I would adviſe you to ſend for ſom workmen out of *Flanders*, that underſtand the Manufacture of Linnen Cloth, and make your own *Flax* into Linnen Cloth, you cannot chooſ but gain by it exceedingly, when you are aforehand with the world, if they live by it who fetch it firſt from *London* into *Lancaſhire* by Land; beeing made in cloth, recarrie it up; and beſides you ſhall do a charitable deed by bringing in that Manufacture into the Kingdom. For it keep's a very great number of poor women and Children at work in *Flanders* and *Holland*, that otherwiſe would not have means to live. So by this way you ſhall bee ſure to vent your *Flax*, and withall procure a publick benefit to the kingdom.

The *Husbandrie* of *Turnips* is as Common between *Gaunt* and *Antwerp*, as that of *Flax*; for as there is more *Flax* ſowed there then of any other Grain or Corn, ſo commonly after the *Flax* is pull'd, immediately they ſow *Turnips*, and preſently after their *Rie*; what they do not eat themſelvs, they give unto their Cattle; they will feed Oxen and Kine as fat as Hay or Oates; the Roots beeing clean waſhed, and then Roots and Leavs beeing put into a Trough, and there ſtampt together with a Spitter, and after boil'd in Water and given to Kine, will make them abound with Milk, yet grow ſo fat withal, that

that you would wonder at it. The onely difficultie is to make your Cattle eat them at first, but breed them up by hand, as they do there. Others do the same alreadie in many parts of *England*, they will take *Turnips* and eat, or any other thing you will give them.

To encourage you the more to sow *Turnips*, I will demonstrate unto you what an Acre of them transplanted may bee worth by Calculation as they are sold in *London*. They commonly there sell four or five *Turnips* in a bunch for a pennie. A rod square beeing sixteen foot and a half may bear a thousand eightie and nine *Turnips*, beeing set at half a foot distance the one from the other. Now suppose that a thousand cometh to good, and five sold for a penie, then a Rod of them amount's to sixteen shillings eight pence, and an Acre of them beeing eightscore Rod by the same Account, come's to above thirtie pound, and therefore certainly an hundred Acres sow'd, may bee very well valued at eight pound an Acre one with another, when you have brought your Cattle to eat them as theirs do.

I told you before how in *Brabant* and *Flanders* they made twelv pound an Acre of their *Clever grass*, either by feeding Cattle, keeping Kine, or by the seed; which, commonly encreasing to five Bushels upon an Acre, was worth eight pound when it was sold, but at sixpence a pound; but beeing sold for two shillings a pound (which price I my self now paid for it) the value of the Seed quadruple's from eight pound to thirtie two pound an Acre; and the man that sold mee seed this year for two shillings a pound, desire's to buy, all that I can spare, the next year at the same price, if you get but into the best kinde of those they use in *Flanders*. For when your Neighbors see your Labors thrive and prosper so far as to

to convert your Land, which bore nothing but Heath for many Ages, *First*, into excellent *Flax*, *then* into such delicate *Turnips*, as they never saw before or tasted. And to end with such *Clover-grass*, as they will admire, when they once see your Crops, and somwhat understand, that you do reap som benefit by them, they will com to you as to an *Oracle* to ask your Counsel, and bee instructed, and desire it from you as a favor, at first to buy your Seed at any reasonable price.

But if you finde that you have more Seed of *Flax* and *Turnip* (if your will let them grow to Seed) then you can vent, you must then set up either a *Water-mill*, or *Winde-mill*, as they do in *Flanders*, and make them into *Oil*, both which Seeds make's good *Oil*, which you may be sure to sell in *London* at good Rates.

And for your *Clover-grass*-seed, if you finde you cannot sell it to your content, you may choos whether you will let it grow to Seed or not: and if you do not let it grow to Seed, you may cut it once more in a year, then otherwise you could do.

You must change your *Flax* Seed, though never so good at first, after four years, the other Seeds do not so much require it.

I doubt not but these things will seem as strange to you at first, as they did to mee: and therefore I desire you but to try what I propose, upon such profitable Terms, as no man, that is well in his wits, but will venture on them, being laid down so plainly to you, as a childe may understand them.

You may observe, that *Flax*, *Turnips*, and *Clover-grass* already grow in *England*; but there is as much difference betwen what groweth there, and here, as is betwen the same thing, which groweth in a Garden, and that which groweth wilde in the Fields.

To

To prevent what may bee ſtrange or troubleſom to you at Firſt for want of knowledg, I would adviſe you to ſend *Tom* or *Robin* to *Gaunt*, where by means of ſom of their old Acquaintance there, they may provide you a ſervant, who underſtands theſe ſeveral Husbandries as well as any of ours do the *Husbandrie* in getting Corn; and by obſerving of his practice, you your ſelvs, or whom you will appoint may bee ſufficiently inſtructed in a year or two ſo far, as to command ſuch things to bee don by others, as are not fit and neceſſarie to bee don by your ſelvs.

Beſides the exceſſive profit you will reap by Sowing theſe Commodities, imagine what a pleaſure it will bee to your Eies and Sent, to ſee the Ruſſet Heath turn'd into greeneſt Graſs; which doth produce moſt ſweet and pleaſant Honie-Suckles, and what Praiſ and Reputation you will gain by your Examples, firſt introducing that into your Countrie, which beeing followed by others, muſt need's redound to the general benefit of the whole Common wealth. I do by my *Will* command you for to execute no more then what I would my ſelf to morrow put in practice, if I had Libertie: you ſhould then learn theſe things I have ſet down by *Examples*, which I am enforc'd to leav to you as a Father's *Precepts*, and with a Father's bleſſing to you all, deſiring God Almightie to guide you and direct you in all your Actions, I will leav you to his Divine Protection and Providence.

Note, that the *Clover-graſs*-ſeed will bee ripe about a Moneth after it appeareth in the huſk.

FINIS.

A Copie of a Letter written to Sr Richard Weston.

Sir!

I Am very credibly informed that you are the Autor of the Discourſ which I have heretofore publiſhed under the Name of *Brabant-Husbandrie*. I am bound therefore to give you thanks, on the behalf of the Publick for it. And to aſſure you that (though my Copie, by which I did publiſh it, was imperfect) nevertheleſs that it hath been exceedingly liked, and now is wholly out of Print, and much fought after, but cannot bee had any more, which doth put the Printer upon thoughts of re-printing it; and his reſolution that way hath moved mee to make this addreſs unto your ſelf, partly, to deſire you to excuſe my freedom in telling the world to whom they are beholden for ſuch an Improvement of their Husbandrie; partly to intreat you to favor the ſecond Edition of that Diſcourſ with a re-view, which may make it bee like that which is your own, and worthie to bear your Name, which for your Honor I have made bold to publiſh. Sir! I have ſent you here a Copie corrected, as I am informed, according to the Original which you wrote; but becauſ I deſire to bee ſure not to wrong you, ſo far as I can poſſibly prevent it, ſeeing you are now taken notice of to bee the Autor. Therefore I ſhall beſeech you, with convenient ſpeed to let mee hear from you, whether this Copie, thus corrected, bee right according to your ſenſ; and in caſe any thing bee defective therein, I ſhall intreat you to add thereunto what you ſhall think fit to make it Compleat and ſufficiently Enlarged for the benefit of all: that the Publick may perceiv, that it is not againſt your ſenſ and will, that all your Conntie men ſhould bee beholden to your Induſtrie and Ingenuitie. Sir! I have herewith, in imitation of your Legacie to your Sons, made a Legacie of the ſame kinde to this Common-wealth of ſuch Advantages as are com to my hands from ſpecial friends, which I now impart unto you as a requital for that which I have uſed of yours, that you may ſee, that by a generous and free Communication of good things, nothing is loſt to thoſe who

are Communicative, but rather much gained thereby. Sir, there is nothing in this life of greater content to a truly noble and Christian spirit, then to oblige all men in good things without partialitie; this makes men like unto God, and conformable to Christ, who hath taught us, that it is more Blessed to Give then to Receiv, and consequently, the better the things are which are Given, the greater the blessednes of the Giver is, which should make us zealous to impart most freely the best things to each other; that if wee seek first the things which belong to Eternitie, and desire to serv each other in all other things onely as relating thereunto, wee may finde the promiss made out unto us, that *If wee seek first the Kingdom of God and his Righteousnes, all other things shall bee added unto us.* Wee know that these things are but for a moment, but the things of his Kingdom are for ever; therefore as wee should not desire for our selvs the enjoiment of life it self, otherwise then in reference to that which is to com; so wee should not intend the Communication of things belonging to this bodily life upon any other account unto each other, but as they are, or may bee an effect of the life of Christianitie, that is subordinate by our Correspondencie therein, unto the means of our mutual Advancement towards the enjoiment of God in the Kingdom of Jesus Christ, wherein I desire infinitely more to bee the servant of all men, then in any of these outward concernments: Thus Sir, you see how my heart com's to bee Enlarged, and desirous to approve it self also unto you by a more Eminent and better Communication in the face of Jesus Christ, in whom I remain assuredly,

SIR!

From my House at *Charing-Cross*, over against Angel-Court, the 2d of *May*, 1654.

Your affectionately humble and faithful servant,

SAMUEL HARTLIB.

Another Copie of a Letter written to Sr *Richard Weston.*

SIR!

I Make no doubt but you received mine of the 2d of *May* last, which was conveied unto you by a friend of yours and mine; together with my Legacie, and a Corrected Copie of your Discourse of *Brabant-Husbandrie*, concerning which I intreated you to let mee know your sens, how for the second Impression you approve of it, or intend to inlarge; but I have received as yet no Answer from you: perhaps somthing hath been in the waie, whereof I can make no rational conjecture; yet I thought good, beeing (as you see by this adjoined Letter from the Printer) called upon to further a second Impression, to renew my sute unto you, that you would, in a thing so much tending to your Credit, and the good of many, seeing you are believed to bee the Autor thereof, further and fulfil my former desires, whereby you will oblige exceedingly

SIR!

Octob. 10th 1651.

Your humble and most ready friend to serve you

Samuel Hartlib.

If any desire to have the great *Clovar* of *Flanders*, or the best sort of *Hemp* or *Flax* Seeds of those parts; Let them enquire at Mr *James Long*'s Shop at the Barge on *Billings-gate*, and they shall upon timely notice have them procured new, and very good, from *Flanders* at reasonable rates.

FINIS.